

## Message Text

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17

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-11 OMB-01 EB-07 AID-05 DIWY-01 CU-02

/102 W

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R 191650Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2488

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L FREETOWN 0165

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, IR, SL

SUBJECT: PRINCESS ASHRAF'S TRIP TO SIERRA LEONE

REF: TEHRAN 12546

SUMMARY: PRINCESS ASHRAF LEFT FREETOWN JANUARY 16 AFTER CEREMONIAL VISIT THAT LEFT GOSL OFFICIALS PLEASED AT HER DEPARTURE AND HOPEFUL BUT DOUBTFUL THAT SOME ASSISTANCE COULD MATERIALIZE IN WAKE OF VISIT. END SUMMARY

1. IRANIAN PRINCESS ASHRAF RECEIVED TUMULTUOUS WELCOME BY GOSL OFFICIALS AND SIERRA LEONEAN PUBLIC DURING FOUR DAY STATE VISIT JAN 13-16. THIS BEING FIRST STATE VISIT IN SL IN OVER A YEAR, GOSL WENT ALL OUT TO MAKE VISIT  
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SUCCESSFUL. NEWSPAPERS AND RADIO WERE FILLED WITH COMMENTS

ABOUT "THE PRINCESS" AND PRAISE FOR HER VISIT; HER PRESENCE BECAME MAJOR FACTOR IN LOCAL CONVERSATION.

2. VISIT WAS FILLED WITH CEREMONIAL MEETINGS IN FREETOWN AND IN ONE MAJOR UP-COUNTRY TOWN. PRINCESS SPOKE FREQUENTLY ABOUT GENERAL GOODWILL AND IMPORTANCE OF ROLE OF WOMEN. GOSL EMPHASIZED WOMEN AND WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES, WITH KEY EVENT BEING HER OPENING THE FIRST PLANNED PARENTHOOD CLINIC IN MOSTLY MUSLEM NORTH.

3. SIERRA LEONEANS WHO HAD OPPORTUNITY TO COME IN CONTACT WITH PRINCESS WERE NOT IMPRESSED. SHE SEEMED UNWILLING TO MAKE OFF-THE-CUFF SPEECHES AND, MOST NOTICEABLY WITH STUDENTS AT VISIT TO UNIVERSITY, ALMOST SHOWED DISDAIN FOR GENERAL PUBLIC. SHE SLEPT LATE PRACTICALLY EVERY DAY THUS THROWING OFF EACH DAY'S DELICATELY WORKED OUT SCHEDULE. SHE WAS IMPATIENT WITH THE OBVIOUS PROBLEMS THAT SURROUND ANY TRAVEL IN WEST AFRICA. SHE MUST NOT HAVE LIKED THE FOOD ARRANGED FOR HER AT STATE HOUSE BECAUSE ONE EVENING SHE IGNORED HER SCHEDULED DINNER TO TAKE HER ENTOURAGE TO A LOCAL RESTAURANT WHERE SHE WAS OBSERVED DANCING IN A FASHION UNBECOMING A PRINCESS WITH ONE OF HER TRAVELING COMPANIONS.

4. THE ONE EVENT THAT THE PRINCESS SEEMED TO APPRECIATE MOST WAS DANCING BY THE SIERRA LEONEAN CULTURAL TROUPE. THE PRINCESS AND HER ENTOURAGE EXHIBITED DEEP INTEREST IN THE BARE-BREASTED DANCERS AS SHOWN BY LENGTHY PICTURE TAKING SESSIONS DURING AND AFTER THE PERFORMANCE INCLUDING GROUP PHOTOS WITH THE PRINCESS. SOME SIERRA LEONEANS FELT THAT THE MAJOR PURPOSE OF THE VISIT MUST HAVE BEEN TO PRODUCE FILM OF THE PRINCESS TOURING WEST AFRICA, AS CONSIDERABLE FOOTAGE WAS SHOT DURING THE VISIT.

5. GOSL OBVIOUSLY EXPECTED SOME PAY-OFF FROM VISIT. ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER WILLIAMS CONFIDED TO AMBASSADOR THE SHOCK OF PRESIDENT STEVENS WHEN, DURING FINAL PRIVATE CALL IN HIS OFFICE, PRINCESS MERELY SPOKE CONFIDENTIAL

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DIPLOMATIC PLATITUDES WITHOUT ANY SIGN THAT SHE MIGHT BE ABLE TO DELIVER SPECIFIC AID FROM GOI. LOCAL OFFICIALS ARE WONDERING WHETHER TRADITIONAL SIERRA RHEONEAN HOPSITALITY HAS NOT BEEN PUT UPON BY VISIT AND WHETHER SERIOUS FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES FACING GOSL HAVE NOT BEEN EXACERBATED RATHER THAN SOOTHED BY VISIT.

5. ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER SUMMED UP WIDESPREAD SIERRA

LEONE RATION BY SAYING THAT THERE WAS GLEE THAT AT  
LAST SHE HAD GONE AND THEY COULD RETURN TO NORMAL  
BUSINESS.  
SAMUELS

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Draft Date:** 19 JAN 1976  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, EAID, IR, SL, (ASHRAF, PRINCESS)  
**To:** STATE  
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